

15 PER CENT RISE IN FOOD COST IN YEAR

This Excludes Meat Prices,
Which Have Made Even
Greater Advances.

The cost of eating is from 10 to 15 per cent higher this March than last March.

That figure excludes the price of meats, which have made even greater strides. It includes provisions of all sorts; vegetables, fruits, fish, coffee and teas, and other standard articles of diet in every household.

Along with these increases are a few decreases, such as that in flour, due to the heavy wheat crop, and in a few green vegetables, because the farmers planted big crops.

Many causes contribute to these increases. The war has least effect on vegetables and home grown fruits and fish, but even in this field other forces have conspired to send up the price.

PLENTY TO SPEND.

For one thing the unexampled prosperity has put money into every workman's pocket, and he is spending more at the market and at the grocery store than ever before.

The Times made a thorough inquiry into Washington retail prices, and this is what was found:

The housewife who takes her basket on arm and goes marketing is apt to go home, take a pencil and paper, and start figuring.

Now if she has a good memory, or has kept a household account of the prices she paid for provisions a year ago, she is apt to conclude that the cost of eating has soared from 10 to 15 per cent over that of March, 1915.

She will reach the result even if she leaves out of consideration the cost of meats, which, everybody knows, has gone up. But it is not so generally realized that the price of other provisions, "green groceries," vegetables, fruits, and fish, have likewise gone skyrocketing.

When she attempts a comparison of prices she may be puzzled. For some articles, apples and string beans, for example, have gone down. But the general trend, she soon will find out, has been upward.

Wide Variety of Causes.

When she goes seeking the reasons from the market wagon economists she will find a wide variety of causes, that list up like the topics in a current events class.

If she be of a philosophical turn of mind she will conclude that this is a pretty small world, after all, and one can't be quite sure that the things she reads about under far away date lines may not soon be brought home to her in the family budget.

For example, she may have shivered with horror and expanded passing sympathy for the victims of the Jamaica earthquake, more than eight months ago, and then forgot all about it until she heard that bananas this month, and found that that catatolism is costing her about 8 or 10 cents a dozen on every dozen of bananas she now buys.

Some of the other passing events that take money out of her pocketbook, she will find, are the widely divergent happenings as these:

The European war.

The coldest and bleakest winter New England has experienced in many, many years.

Frosts in Florida.

Frequent cool snaps along the Chesapeake bay and the Potomac.

The German submarine performances.

The heavy demand for horses in the European war.

The spread of the gospel of vegetarianism.

And a series of other disconnected events which are glibly cited by the commission merchants and retail dealers who must answer questions about the reasons for higher prices.

Beans for Instance.

Take the war and beans, the "navy beans" that form about the most nourishing and most easily preserved diet for soldiers. Navy beans cost 8 cents a quart now. Last year they could be had for 5 and 6 cents.

By the bushel these beans have shot up about \$1.50 since last March. They now sell, wholesale, for \$4.

Over in Germany the manufacture of such luxuries as lard and butter has been prohibited. Hence there have been heavy shipments of both commodities abroad. That is why the housewife now pays 40 to 45 cents for the best creamery butter that she could get last March for 35 cents. And she pays from 13 to 15 cents for the same grade of lard she could get last year for 12 cents.

Cheese has taken a long jump. Cream cheese, made in this country, is being shipped abroad, and now costs from 25 to 35 cents instead of 20 cents or less. Swiss cheese, usually about 30 cents, now can't be had for less than 40 cents. The fancy imported cheese, Roquefort, Camembert, Limburger, and others, can't be had at all, and the imitations produced here now cost more than the real article did before the war.

Apples are Plentiful.

Apples are plentiful, and big, red, eating apples can be had for 20 cents a peck, a low price for this season. Lettuce is scarce. The Florida supply has quit coming, and the Northern supply is not yet on the market. What can be bought sells for 5 to 8 cents a head. Western onions cost 10 cents a quart, and spring onions sell at two or three bunches for 5 cents.

TRIO OF STARS WITH BALLET RUSSE



LUBOV TCHERNICHOWA.

Japan Forced Yuan To Drop Monarchy

Allies Also Used Pressure to Support Republic in China.

LONDON, March 22.—Pressure from Japan, supported by the allies, caused President Yuan Shi Kai to abandon his plan to ascend the throne, converting China into a monarchy, according to Peking advices today.

In some quarters it is hinted that the Chinese government did not look with disfavor on the revolutionary movement of the anti-monarchical party in China.

Federal Employees' Union Reaches 3,500 Mark

Membership in the Federal Employees' Union has grown to 3,500 in two days, according to a statement by Temporary President McLarin. This number, it is declared, is but a beginning, as the membership is coming in rapidly. Approximately 1,000 applications for membership were received yesterday, and there are 500 additional clerks pledged, it is declared.

The committee on constitution of the union will meet tonight to complete its draft for presentation to the next full meeting of the union.

Ministers Will Speak At the Tome School

The Rev. Percy Foster Hall, of the Church of the Epiphany, Washington, will be among the ministers who will speak at Tome School in Port Deposit, Md., during the spring term. The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Richmond, president of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., also has accepted an invitation to speak. Preparations are being made for the tenth annual field and track meet at the Tome School on May 20. Many baseball and golf matches have been arranged for the spring.

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Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist now. Apply a little of this fragrant antiseptic, healing cream in your nostrils. It penetrates through every air passage of the head, soothes the inflamed or swollen mucous membrane and relief comes instantly.

It's just fine. Don't stay stuffed-up with a cold or nasty catarrh.—Adv.

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At your druggist's, in 25c and 50c jars, and a special large hospital size for \$2.50. Be sure you get the genuine MUSTEROLE. Refuse imitations—get what you ask for. The Musterole Company, Cleveland, Ohio.—Adv.



BALLET RIDES IN ON SPECIAL TRAIN

Nearly Two Hundred Artists Arrive to Give Three Performances Here.

Serge de Diaghileff's Ballet Russe, of nearly 200 members, with fifty scene shifters and seven carloads of scenery and baggage, was personally conducted into Washington this morning on two special trains.

The personal conductors consisted of a railway company official, an American manager, and a reporter. The company was composed entirely of artists, the women chic and the men, for the most part, bewhiskered, and all highly bored.

Few of the artists speak English—but they seem rather to enjoy it, as if the addition of a new language to their vocabulary would simply add another state of ennui to their temperaments.

And, as one of them expressed it—an immaculate gentleman who spoke English with a French accent through a black beard—they don't have time to talk with the "natives," even if they could.

Then he got a little franker and admitted: "We really don't have any time to look at the towns. Always short stops, and the rehearsals always, and it's just theater to hotel and hotel to theater."

"No," he said, "I don't like the American audiences as well as the European. But that is quite logical. The European has been educated up to the ballet for years, and he goes crazy at our performances. But the American doesn't understand. In New York and Boston they do, though, and they go wild about us there."

The reporter here ventured to remark on the apparent youth of all the members of the company.

"Oh, yes," he replied, "they're all very young. A dancer's life begins at sixteen and is over by thirty. There's no one in the company more than thirty—that is, except me," and he stroked the absurdly old beard that cloaked his absurdly young face.

The reporter was just about ready to report to the office when a Dream in Brown, whom he'd seen on the ballet train, sat down beside him. He introduced himself, and she modestly told him that she was Doris, and had been in Washington twice before, once with Pavlova, a year ago.

But she wouldn't get temperamental, like the ones who only spoke Russian and French, and make good "copy." She just said she hoped Washington would like the dances, and asked a few routine questions.

Monsieur Diaghileff came with the organization. He will give each performance his personal direction. There will be three performances at the National Theatre, tomorrow, and Saturday night, the end of the week matinee being omitted. The bill of ballets will be changed at each performance. While it is the policy of the company to star no one and to depend solely upon the perfection of its ensemble there are a number of renowned dancers in the company.

Among these is Leonide Massine, who in addition to being one of the handsomest and most skillful premieres of the Russian stage, is also the author of a number of brilliant ballets, choreographies. He is the first man engaged in this stage work abroad to come to America. The premieres include Lopoukova, Ravallie, Tchernichowa, Sopokola, and many others, while there are also Adolf Bohm and Cecchetti, the veteran maestro du ballo.

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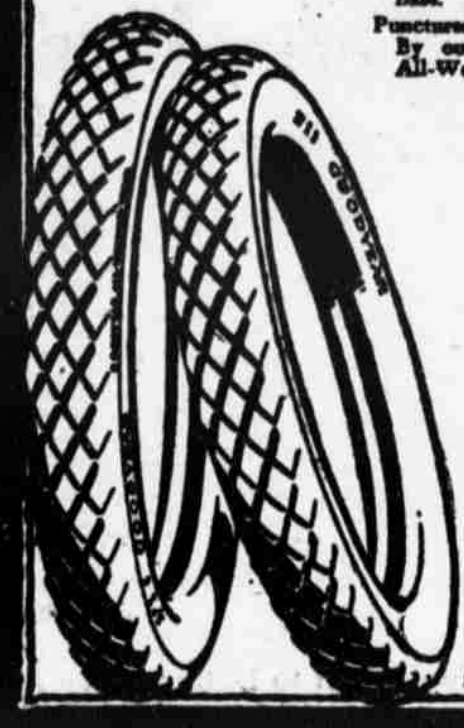
This shows a Goodyear preference of 21 per cent—with close to 200 tire brands for buyers to choose from.

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YOUR LAST CHANCE

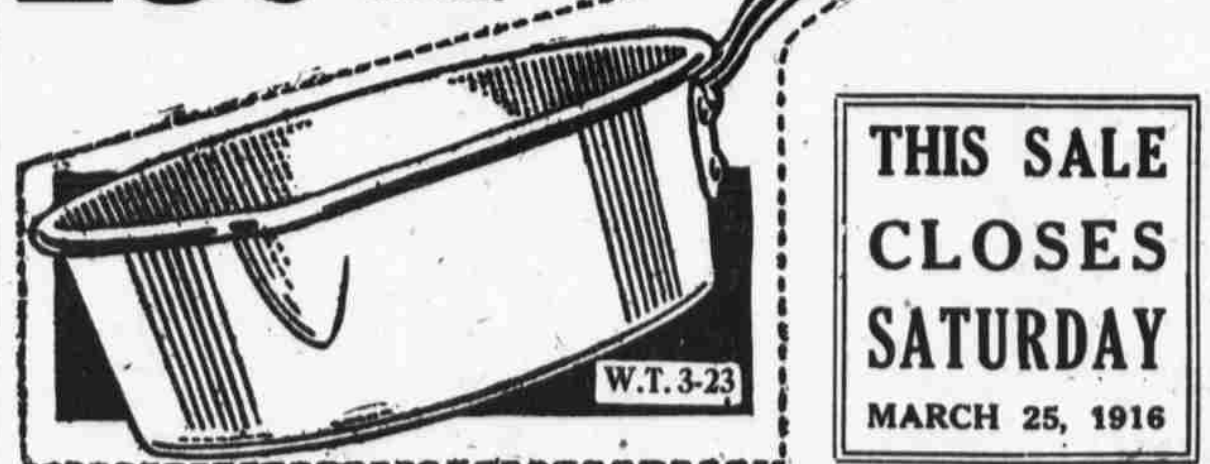
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